

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 and 10-32 are pending.

Claims 14, 18, and 22 are amended. No new matter is added. Claims 1-8 and 10-32 remain after entering this amendment. Reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-8 and 10-32 are requested in light of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 14-17 and 18-21 were rejected as failing to describe “a central registration point” in claims 14 and 18 in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art.

Without conceding the merits of this rejection, the applicant removed the feature “a central registration point” from claims 14 and 18 and amended claims 16 and 22 to recite “registering...with a software mechanism.” As mentioned in the specification, an example of the software mechanism is the distributed control plane architecture (DCPA) discussed in copending US Patent Application Serial No. 10/713,237, filed November 13, 2003. This is just one example of such a mechanism, but may promote ease of understanding of the claimed subject matter. See Specification, page 11, lines 12-15, and page 12, lines 14-17.

Applicant submits that there is more than ample description in the specification to enable one skilled in the art. As such, removal of the rejection is thus respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 101

Claim 22 was rejected for being directed to non-statutory subject matter. The Examiner suggests changing the “machine-readable code containing instructions” to “computer readable medium encoded with computer executable instructions--”. Applicant amends claim 22 as

suggested by the Examiner. Accordingly, claim 22 and its dependent claims 23-25 recite statutory subject matter.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-7, 18-21 and 26-32 were rejected as being unpatentable over Soumiya in view of McCormick. Claims 8-17 and 22-25 were rejected as being unpatentable over Soumiya in view of Hayashi, and further in view of McCormick. The rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 recites “a control processor configured and arranged to execute a control portion of an interior gateway signaling protocol; and a line processor configured and arranged to execute an offload portion of an interior gateway signaling protocol.” Claims 8, 14, 18, 22, and 26 recite similar features.

Soumiya merely discloses a functional block diagram of an MPLS router, which includes an IP packet transfer function 111, a routing protocol section 112, a path selection section 113, an LSP selection section 114, an LSP setting section 115 and a traffic engineering section 116. *See* Soumiya, Col. 10, lines 3-8. Soumiya does not teach a control processor and a line processor respectively implementing a control portion and an offload portion of the interior gateway signaling protocol recited in claims 1 and 18 or the routing protocol recited in claim 26.

The Office Action acknowledges that Soumiya fails to disclose that each of the protocols is implemented in a control processor and a line processor respectively. *See* Office Action, page 11, last paragraph.

McCormick does not cure the deficiencies of Soumiya. McCormick discloses a multiprocessor control block, which includes a resource and routing processor 220, a plurality of intermediate processors 230-234, and a link layer processor 240. *See* McCormick, page 2, paragraph [0019]; and FIG. 3. McCormick further discloses that each of the processors in the

multiprocessor control block perform functions associated with a protocol stack as illustrated in FIG. 4. *See* McCormick, page 2, paragraph [0019]; and FIG. 4. Specifically, the resource and routing processor 220 performs functions associated with resource distribution and routing 292 in the protocol stack of FIG. 4; the intermediate processors 230-234, each of which performs similar processing operations such as those included in the signaling link layer 295 of the protocol stack of FIG. 4 as well as call processing operations 293 of the protocol stack 290; and the link layer processor 240 performs functions included in the physical link layer 296 of the protocol stack 290. *See* McCormick, page 3, paragraphs [0020]-[0027]; and FIG. 4.

That is, McCormick teaches dividing a protocol stack consisting of multiple individual protocols on each layer of the stack among the processors of the multiprocessor control block, such that each processor would handle all of the functionalities associated with a protocol in the protocol stack. McCormick does not teach or suggest dividing an individual protocol into a control portion and an offload portion among different processors, such that “a control processor configured and arranged to execute a control portion of an interior gateway signaling protocol; and a line processor configured and arranged to execute an offload portion of an interior gateway signaling protocol.” (Underline added).

Although McCormick mentions that multiple processors 230-234 may be used to perform call-processing operations for a corresponding portion of the connections supported by the communication switch, each intermediate processor performs similar processing operations, not different portions of a router control protocol, that is, a control portion and an offload portion of a router control protocol. *See* McCormick, page 3, paragraph [0027], lines 6-8. In fact, McCormick may use a single intermediate processor to perform all of the functionalities

associated with call processing if it does not require parallel processing resources for efficient calling processing. *See McCormick*, page 3, paragraph [0024].

For reasons discussed above, Hayashi does not cure the deficiencies of either Soumiya and/or McCormick. Claims 1-8 and 10-32 are patentably distinguishable from Soumiya and McCormick, and further in view of Hayashi. Claims 1-8 and 10-32 are therefore in condition for allowance.

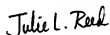
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, applicant believes the application should be in condition for allowance. If any questions remain, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at (503) 222-3613 if it appears that an interview would be helpful in advancing the case.

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Respectfully submitted,

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